

**We Claim:**

1. A method for coloring keratin fibers comprising applying to the keratin fibers a compound corresponding to formula (I):

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where

X is a group derived from an indole or indoline derivative as a melanin precursor,

10 Y is a group derived from

- an oxidation dye precursor of the secondary or primary intermediate type or
- an indole or indoline derivative as a melanin precursor; and

15 S is a structural element which is common constituent of the groups X and Y, a direct bond or at least one spacer group.

2. A method for coloring human skin comprising applying to the skin a compound corresponding to formula (I):

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where

X is a group derived from an indole or indoline derivative as a melanin precursor,

25 Y is a group derived from

- an oxidation dye precursor of the secondary or primary intermediate type or
- an indole or indoline derivative as a melanin precursor; and

30 S is a structural element which is common constituent of the groups X and

Y, a direct bond or at least one spacer group.

3. A composition for coloring keratin fibers comprising formula (I):



where

X is a group derived from an indole or indoline derivative as a melanin precursor,

10 Y is a group derived from

- an oxidation dye precursor of the secondary or primary intermediate type or
- an indole or indoline derivative as a melanin precursor; and

S is a structural element which is common constituent of the groups X and

15 Y, a direct bond or at least one spacer group.

4. The composition of claim 3 wherein Y is an oxidation dye precursor of the secondary or primary intermediate type.

20 5. The composition of claim 3 further comprising a substantive dye.

6. The composition of claim 3 wherein Y is a derivative of indole or indoline as the melanin precursor.

25 7. The composition of claim 3 further comprising a surfactant selected from the group consisting of anionic, zwitterionic, ampholytic, cationic and/or nonionic surfactants.

8. The composition of claim 3 further comprising a polymer selected  
30 from the group consisting of cationic, anionic, nonionic and/or amphoteric

polymers.

9. The composition of claim 3 wherein X is 5,6-dihydroxyindoline or derivative thereof.

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10. The composition of claim 3 wherein Y is p-phenylenediamine or derivative thereof.